



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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NC State University and National Climatic Data Center in Asheville to Form Climate Research Institute Following National Competition

Washington, D.C. – United States Representative Heath Shuler announced today the creation of a new Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, which will be based partially in North Carolina. The Institute will be a partnership between scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and experts from North Carolina State University (NC State) and the University of Maryland. The two universities were selected for this honor through a competitive proposal process. These institutions will work in collaboration to utilize current and historical satellite data to better understand our planet's changing climate.

The new institute will use satellite observations to detect, observe and forecast the impacts of climate change on the environment, including ecosystems. Programs conducted in North Carolina will be centered at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, home to the world's largest climate data archive. Another center will be located on the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park.

Researchers from NC State will join with other world-renowned earth scientists from research institutions across the country to analyze climate data records at NCDC in Asheville and to produce useful information that someday could help governments and businesses predict and prepare for specific and regional impacts of climate change.

"This is a remarkable opportunity for North Carolina State University and for the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville to underscore North Carolina's position as a leader in climate research," Shuler said. "The work that will be done by this cooperative institute will be vital to our country's efforts to understand climate change and mitigate its negative impacts in the coming decades. Clearly NOAA recognizes the tremendous climate resources that exist here in North Carolina. NCDC in Asheville is home to the world's preeminent collection of climate data, and our state is blessed with outstanding research institutions that are well equipped to turn this data into useable information."

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